

5,700 crores as on 31.3.96 are estimated to rise to Rs. 15,500 crores by 31.3.97 are as under :

| | Rs./Crores |
|---------------|------------|
| IOC | 9,000 |
| HPCL | 1,800 |
| BPCL | 1,300 |
| MRL | 330 |
| CRL | 320 |
| BRPL | 100 |
| IBP | 140 |
| ONGC | 1,800 |
| MRPL & Others | 710 |

To tide over the situation, the oil companies have to borrow huge amounts from the market at commercial rate of interest. The position of the oil pool account is being monitored on a continuous basis and remedial measures taken to contain the deficit.

[Translation]

Private Sector in Civic Amenities

57. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister for Urban Affairs and Employment made a statement in a seminar held in Delhi on September 24, 1996 that the Urban Affairs Ministry is considering to enact a law to ensure private participation in improving civic amenities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, as per the policy of the Government to encourage private investment in infrastructural projects, it has been stated in various form that the scope for private sector participation/investments in various infrastructural activities like water supply, sanitation and housing would be explored.

[English]

CNG Kit

58. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India had directed that all Government petrol vehicles be provided with catalytic converters for use of unleaded fuel or by CNG kit for use of natural gas as automotive fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the measures taken to create CNG fuelling facility for Government petrol vehicles; and

(d) the time by which the CNG fuelling facility is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the Supreme Court directive dated 9th May, 1996, 1959 four wheeled petrol driven Government vehicles belonging to various Ministries/Departments, their attached and subordinate offices have been identified for conversion into CNG/Catalytic converter operation. Till 31st October, 1996, 634 vehicles have been converted to CNG operation, 363 vehicles have been converted to catalytic converter operation and 312 vehicles have been scrapped.

(c) and (d). CNG refuelling facilities are already available in Delhi.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries

59. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food processing industries are running in losses;

(b) if so, the name-wise and place-wise details thereof;

(c) the reasons for their running in losses; and

(d) the details of the preventive steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (d). Since food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information in regard to the number of food processing industries, as also those which are suffering losses, is not maintained centrally. Units which are sick can approach Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for revival/closing down.

[English]

Leasing of Transponders

60. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Telecommunication Satellite organisation (INTELSAT) has entered into agreement with for leasing transponders from India's INSAT 2 E on a commercial basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions laid down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) INTELSAT is an international inter-governmental cooperative organisation with 133 member nations providing telecommunication service for different regions of the world. India is the tenth largest stock holder in INTELSAT. INTELSAT owns and operates the world's most extensive global communications satellite system. On January 30, 1995, Department of Space (DOS), Government of India entered into an agreement with the Washington-based International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (INTELSAT) for the lease of a portion of the capacity (11 transponders of 36 M Hz equivalent capacity) on INSAT-2E for INTELSAT usage for providing telecommunications service to its customers. This long-term lease agreement was approved by the Government of India and the Board of Governors of INTELSAT.

(c) The contract is a 'lease' type of contract under which INTELSAT will be paying DOS approximately US\$ 100 million (about Rs. 350 crores at the present exchange rates) over a ten year period starting from 1998. The title remains with DOS throughout the contract and there is no transfer of property to INTELSAT. Clauses related to termination by either party for various reasons, mutual indemnification etc. have been built into the contract.

[Translation]

Implementation of MPLADS

61. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 554 dated September 11, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the factors responsible for delay in the implementation of the schemes sanctioned by the Government have been identified;

(b) whether it is also true that the amount sanctioned under MPs Local Area Development Scheme for the last year has been withheld and even after the recommendation of new MPs, these programmes have not been started; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The factors responsible for delay in implementation of the scheme have already been given under part (c) of

the reply to the Starred Question No. 554 dated 11.9.1996 referred to by the Hon'ble MP.

(b) and (c). It is not correct that the amount sanctioned under MPLADS for the last year has been withheld. Detailed instructions have been issued to all the District Collectors/DCs/DMs in regard to the utilisation of the funds in balance with them as on 31.3.96. Accordingly, all the works which were on-going or which were sanctioned but not started prior to the commencement of the Model Code of Conduct for Elections have been allowed to be continued/started and completed.

The District Collectors have been further instructed vide this Department's letter dated 18.7.96 to process the recommendations given by the new MPs without waiting for the release of the funds. Orders sanctioning the release of the first instalment of Rs. 50 lakh per MP for the year 1996-97 were also issued on 1.8.96.

[English]

Food Processing Industries

62. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Processing Industries set-up in Karnataka particularly in Kolar district during the last 3 years; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b). Since Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information with respect to all food processing units statewide is not maintained in the Ministry.

Rural Electrification

63. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Time to streamline rural electrification" appeared in the 'Hindu' dated August 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item highlights the need for State Electricity Boards to earn 3% Rate of Return in order to ensure reliable power. It also indicates the need for